

- 6 One Cocoon Testing & Grading Unit**
- 7 Twenty Cocoon Drying Chambers**
- 8 One Demonstration-cum-Training Centre**
- 9 One Sericulture Training School**

Besides, the Central Silk Board is also extending assistance to the State under various developmental programmes like supply of mulberry cuttings/saplings/disease free layings, farmers training programmes etc

Production Cost of Natural Rubber

4981. SHRI P C THOMAS Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have made any study on the cost of production of natural rubber for the purpose of fixing bench mark or support price, and

(b) if so, the cost of production of one kilogram natural rubber, as per the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) A study on the cost of production for natural rubber (RMA-4 Grade) was carried out in November, 1990 which had indicated the cost for this grade to be approximately Rs 21.45 per kg. Due to reported increases in various inputs, a fresh Cost Study has since been carried out. This study is being examined by Government

Utilization of Defence Budget

4982 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the steps proposed to be taken for cost-effective utilisation of the Defence budget,

(b) the savings likely to be effected during 1992-1993 through implementation of cost-effective measures,

(c) whether the measures include stoppage of fresh recruitments also in some of the departments, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) and (b) Economy measures initiated include reduction in consumption of FOL (Fuel, Oil & Lubricants), review of all ongoing projects/schemes, effective personnel management, review of inventories, sale of surplus/obsolete stores and land, review and rationalisation of the scale and duration of all training courses/exercises/practice camps, optimum utilisation of transport, modernisation of the existing equipment, indigenisation, use of simulators etc

(c) and (d) Rationalisation of manpower is a part of the economy measures initiated

Export of Garments during Eighth Plan

4983 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the export potential of garments at present and during the Eight Five Year Plan period,

(b) whether the Government propose to fix floor price of garments for exports,

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the garment trade has created employment opportunities in rural areas also, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In the current year, exports from April 1991 to February 1992 have reached Rs.5462 crores (Provisional). There is good potential for increasing exports significantly during the 8th Plan Period.

(b) and (c) Floor prices for export of garments which are subject to quota restrictions in various importing countries are fixed every year with the main objectives of i) maximising export earnings, ii) eliminating unhealthy competition resulting in export of cheap products against limited quotas, iii) reducing the scope for under invoicing and iv) minimising price adjustments between different quota allotment systems.

(d) and (e): Garment export trade is hitherto concentrated mainly in urban areas

Export of Silk

4984. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to increase the export of silk,

(b) if so, the target fixed for the Eight Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export in the above plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Government are making concerted efforts to increase export of silk textile products. The tentative target for export of silk textile products for the VIIIth Five Year Plan is Rs. 3074.00 crores.

(c) The Indian Silk Export Promotion

Council set up for promotion of export of silk textile products is taking various steps for promotion of exports which inter-alia, include participation in trade fairs, organisation of 'Buyer-Seller Meets', sponsoring of Sales-cum-Study Teams, undertaking market surveys and special market/product promotion programmes etc.

Import of Newsprint

4985. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate requirement of newsprint in the country;

(b) whether newsprint is being imported to meet the growing requirement;

(c) whether State Trading Corporation had signed an agreement with erstwhile Soviet Union to import newsprint;

(d) if so, the total quantum of newsprint which was to be imported;

(e) the quantum of newsprint already imported from that country during the current year, so far;

(f) whether the recent political development has any adverse impact on the agreement, and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The approximate requirement of standard newsprint in the country during the current year has been estimated at the level of 5.5 lakh tons and the newsprint is imported to bridge the gap between indigenous demand and supply.

(c) Yes Sir,